

On and about Duxbury Bay



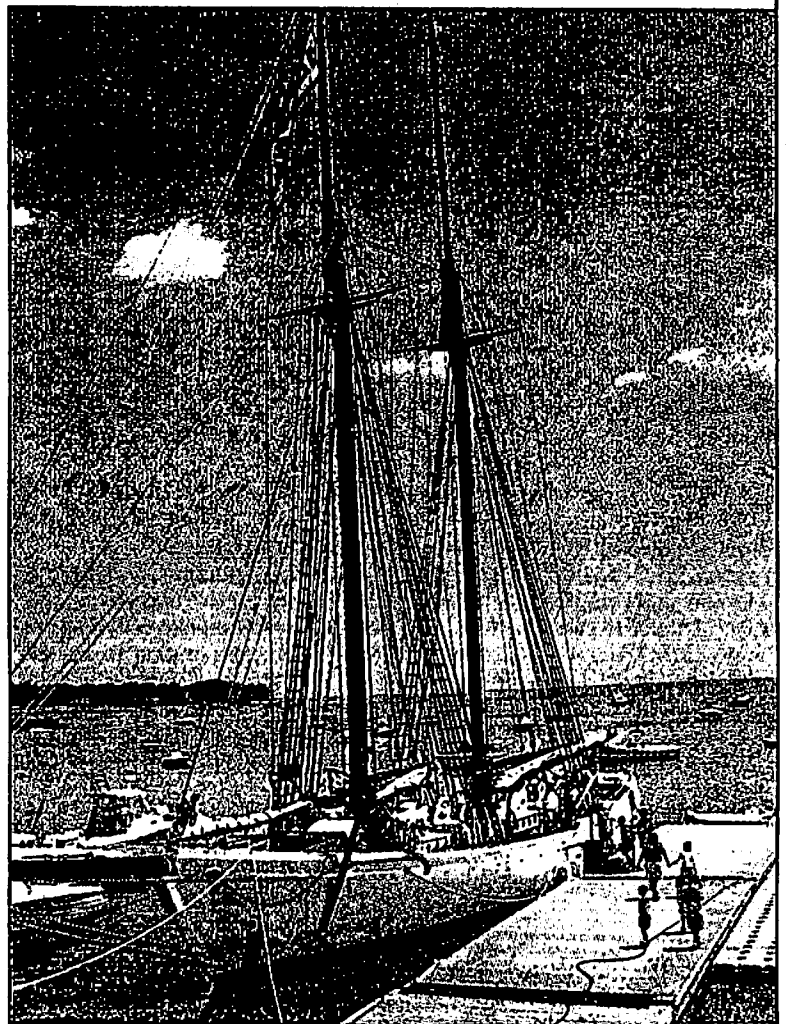
Staff photo/Scott Smith

Festivities — Families swarm the deck outside the maritime school as hot dogs grilled and the auction weathered on during the Opening of the Bay.



Staff photo/Scott Smith

Groovin' — The band Americana filled the air with lots of old fashioned harmony during the Opening of the Bay.



Staff photo/Scott Smith

Sailing the high seas — The tall ship *Alabama* docks in Snug Harbor.

in celebration of the Opening of the Bay.

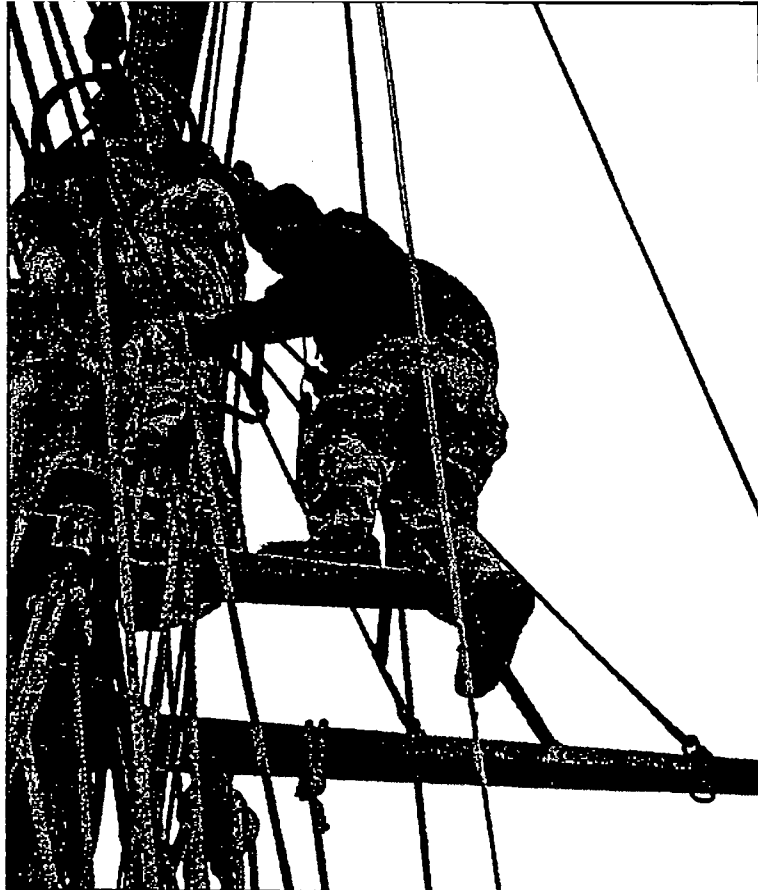
Organized by the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, opening festivities raised money for school scholarships and programming. This year the weekend's events, including the sail, raised more than \$100,000. Last year they raised about \$80,000.

A sort of floating museum reminding people of pirate days, the *Alabama*, a 90-foot gaff-rigged schooner, pulled into Duxbury Bay Friday morning as part of the annual tall ship tradition that took hold nearly a decade ago. Though initially slated to come in Thursday night, the ship was delayed due to the untimely nor'easter that ripped apart much of the beach.

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By Debra Filcman
MPG Newspapers

The children were enthralled by their first voyage aboard a tall ship. And they were amused the ship was steered by foot. But mainly, they smiled and giggled unmistakably as they scampered on board the *Alabama* last Friday



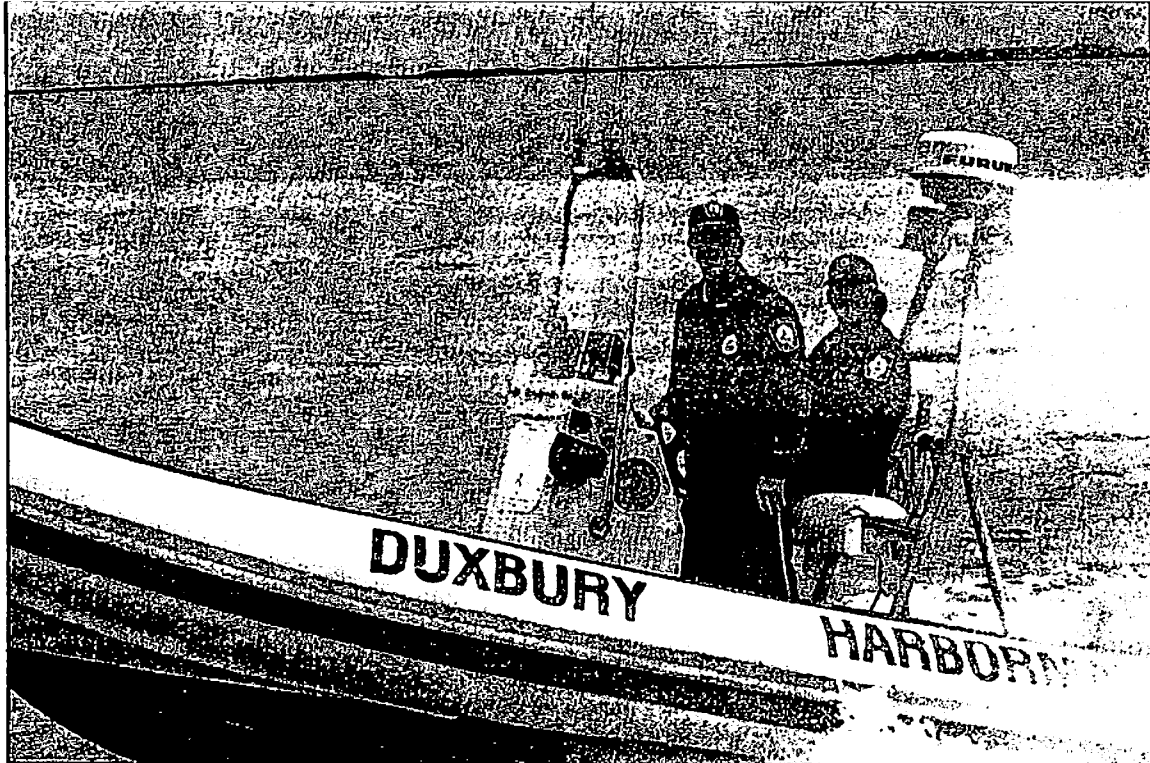
Careful — A crew member climbs the rigging to check a sail during Friday's tour of Duxbury Bay.

Staff photo/Susan Haney

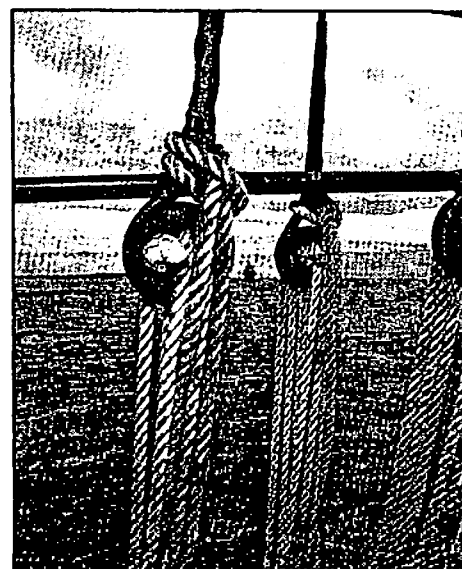


Hands on — Passengers on the tall ship *Alabama* help flake and stow the sails as the boat heads in to port at Snug Harbor Friday afternoon.

Staff photo/Susan Haney



Safety first — Duxbury Harbormaster Don Beers and Assistant Harbormaster Neil Chandler help guide the tall ship *Alabama* to the dock Friday afternoon.



Staff photo/Susan Haney

Over the bounding main — Left, captain Morgan Douglas handles the wheel of the tall ship *Alabama* with his feet. Right, Bug Light as viewed through the rigging during the tour of Duxbury Bay Friday afternoon.

Kids, adults delight in sailing of tall ship

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But for the ship's two family sails Friday, at 9 a.m. and noon, the clouds parted ways and sun seeped through for local voyagers.

Captain Morgan Douglas – son of Black Dog owner and founder, Captain Robert Douglas – took more than 70 people out on the bay, giving them a pleasant and exciting ride on the unexpectedly beautiful day. The boat can carry up to 49 passengers per day trip and 27 can be accommodated overnight in the cabins down below.

Morgan said the trip to Duxbury was the first time this year that *Alabama's* sails were raised. For the upcoming summer, however, The Black Dog Company tries to focus on school sails, taking kids 9-14 out for five-day sails. The summer months, he said, will be stocked with sailing trips.

The boat once functioned as a pilot vessel designed by naval architect Thomas McManus. It was restored between 1995-1997 after many years of dormancy. It was refitted for passengers and equipped with twin diesel engines.

The captain gave the visiting

sailors an education. Topics ranged from steering to weather precautions, safety practices to simply using the head – sailors got more than they bargained for, especially when they were asked to assist in raising and lowering the sails.

Learning the meaning of such terms as “jib” and “staysail,” things got exciting, not to mention loud. First mate Ryan Dickerson began to bark out orders to the crew and passengers.

“Heave!” he screamed.

Eager passengers grabbed hold of the lines and pulled with all of their might, taking pride in helping sail the impressive boat. Some pulled so hard they cut and scraped their hands.

Dickerson then climbed the mast to the highest point of the sails. Passengers gasped. The most amazed was 6-year-old Madeline Coughlin, who stared up and kept repeating, “Oh my God!” until he finally climbed back down.

Dickerson, a Georgia native, began sailing just six years ago. His father, he said, sailed with the senior Captain Douglas and offered to help get him a job on a ship after graduating high school. He's been

with Black Dog Tall Ships ever since.

“I've never sailed here in Duxbury, and it's been really amazing,” he said. “The whole town came out for us; I've never seen anything like it.”

Dickerson said his job, in essence, is to carry out the captain's orders, whatever they may be.

“You know, when the captain calls...” he said, laughing.

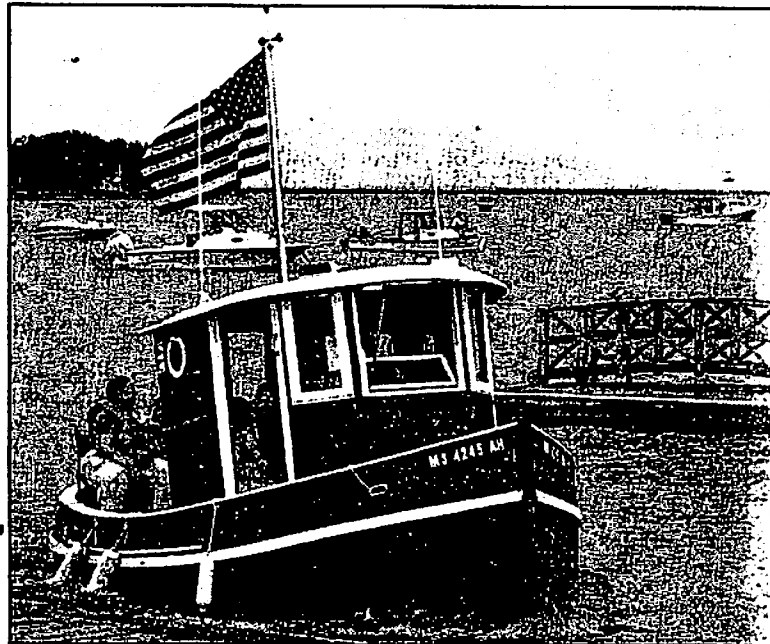
Though the sails were only up for about half an hour at most, the voyage lasted nearly 2.5 hours, including docking. The *Alabama* prepared for landing, and boats appeared from out of nowhere. Passengers began to question the appearance of the rubber boats that began moving alongside the ship. One on each side, both were assigned to the Plymouth harbor master.

“What are they doing here?” many sailors asked the captain.

“I don't know,” Morgan responded with a wry smile. “We must be trouble.”

Soon, Duxbury's own harbor master, Don Beers, showed up as well.

The three escorts ensured safe passage through the narrow, shal-



Staff photo/Susan Hanley

Toot toot — Visitors to Snug Harbor enjoyed a harbor tour on a Tiny Tug Adventures tug boat during Saturday's Opening of the Bay.

low areas of Snug Harbor, with which Morgan was unaccustomed. *Alabama's* guides radioed distances and times to turn back and forth

until making landfall, and all the kids got dry land under them once again.